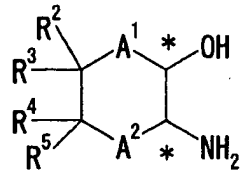
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This following listing of claims will replace all prior listings for the application.

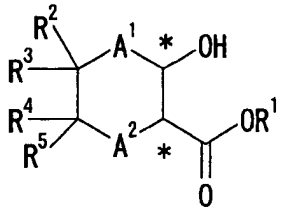
Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for the production of an optically active amino alcohol represented by the following formula (I)



(I)

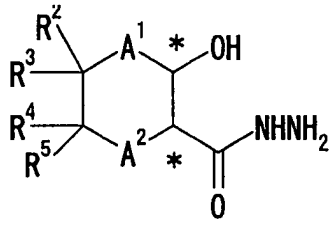
-(wherein, R^2, R^3, R^4, and R^5 each independently is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or an optionally-substituted phenyl group; R^2 or R^3 may be bonded to R^4 or R^5 forming a ring together with the adjacent carbon atoms; A^1 is $-(CH_2)_m-$ while A^2 is $-(CH_2)_n-$ (where m and n each is an integer of 0 to 3 and m + n is 1 to 3); * is an asymmetric carbon atom, ~~A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings which will be defined below~~ where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to ~~amino~~ alkoxycarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) or a salt thereof, comprising ~~by~~ reacting an optically active hydroxycarboxylate represented by the following formula (IV)



(IV)

(wherein, R^1 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s); R^2, R^3, R^4, ~~to~~ R^5, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to amino group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) ~~each independently is hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or an optionally substituted phenyl group; with proviso that R^2 and R^4 or R^2 and R^5 or R^3 and R^4 or R^3 and R^5 taken~~

~~together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached optionally form a ring or fused ring; A^1 is $-(CH_2)_m-$ while A^2 is $-(CH_2)_n-$ (where m and n each is an integer of 0 to 3 and m + n is 1 to 3); and * is an asymmetric carbon atom where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans)~~ with hydrazine to prepare an optically-active hydroxycarboxylic hydrazide compound represented by the following formula (III)



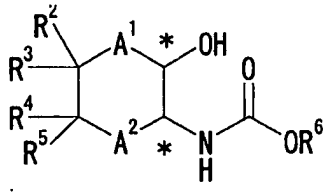
(III)

~~(~~wherein, R^2, R^3, R^4, ~~to~~ R^5, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to hydrazinocarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans), then conducting a Curtius reaction in the presence of an alcohol represented by the following formula (VI)

~~(VI)~~

$$R^6\ OH \qquad (VI)$$

(wherein, R^6 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s) or an optionally-substituted benzyl group) to give an optically active alkoxycarbonylamino alcohol represented by the following formula (II)

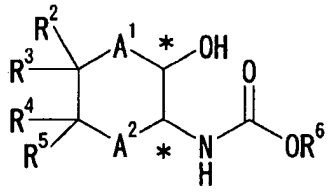


(II)

~~(~~wherein, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, ~~to~~ R^6, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonylamino group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) and then deprotecting a protective group for the amino group.

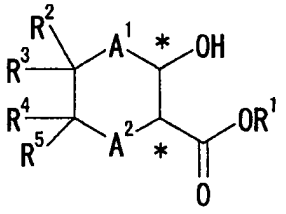
2. (currently amended) A process for the production of an optically

active alkoxycarbonylamino alcohol represented by the following formula (II)



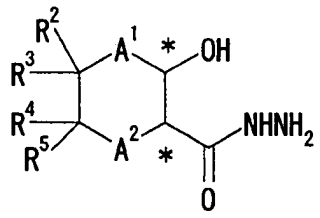
(II)

—(wherein, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 each independently is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or an optionally-substituted phenyl group; R^2 or R^3 may be bonded to R^4 or R^5 forming a ring together with the adjacent carbon atoms; R^6 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s) or an optionally-substituted benzyl group; A^1 is $-(CH_2)_m-$ while A^2 is $-(CH_2)_n-$ (where m and n each is an integer of 0 to 3 and m + n is 1 to 3); * is an asymmetric carbon atom ~~to R^6, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above~~ where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to ~~alkoxycarbonylamino~~ alkoxycarbonyl group on each of asymmetric carbons marked * is trans)~~-~~, comprising ~~by~~ reacting an optically active hydroxycarboxylate represented by the following formula (IV)



(IV)

-(wherein, R^1 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s); R^2, R^3, R^4, ~~to~~ R^5, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked* is trans) with hydrazine to prepare an optically-active hydroxycarboxylic hydrazide compound represented by the following formula (III)



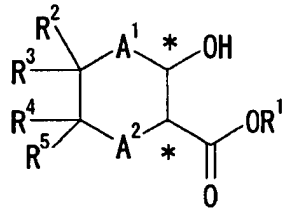
(III)

—(wherein, R^2 R^3, R^4 ~~to~~ R^5, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to hydrazinocarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) and conducting ~~to~~ a Curtius reaction in the presence of an alcohol represented by the following formula (VI)

R^6 OH (VI)

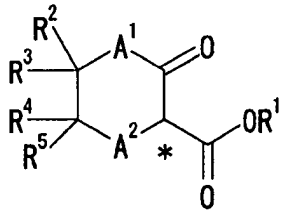
(wherein, R^6 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s) or an optionally-substituted benzyl group~~has the same meaning as defined already~~).

3. (currently amended) The process ~~for the production~~ according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the optically active hydroxycarboxylate represented by the following formula (IV)



(IV)

—(wherein, R^1, R^2 R^3, R^4, ~~to~~ R^5, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) is a product prepared by subjecting a β-keto ester represented by the following formula (V)



(V)

—(wherein, R^1, R^2 R^3, R^4, ~~to~~ R^5, A^1, A^2, m and n have the same meanings as defined above) to an asymmetric hydrogenation in the presence of a ruthenium complex including an optically active phosphine compound as a ligand.

4. (currently amended) The process ~~for the production~~ according to claim[[s]] 1 or 2 , wherein R^6 is an optionally substituted benzyl group.

5. (currently amended) The process ~~for the production~~ according to claim[[s]] 1 or 2, wherein R^6 is a benzyl group.

6. (previously presented) The process of claim 3 wherein R^6 is an optionally substituted benzyl group.

7. (previously presented) The process of claim 3 wherein R^6 is a benzyl group.